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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,765	01/25/2002	Susumu Takatsuka	100809-00164(SCEY 19.380)	9583

26304 7590 04/27/2005

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EXAMINER	
RUTLEDGE, AMELIA L	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2176	

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/057,765	TAKATSUKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Amelia Rutledge	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 January 2002*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-49* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-49* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *25 January 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/28/03;1/25/02*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: original application filed 01/25/2002.

2. Claims 1-49 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 13, 25, 37, and 49 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-~~2~~12 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding independent claim 1, the combined limitations of claim 1 can be interpreted as a series of mental and/or manual steps (i.e. manually displaying a plurality of groups). The examiner's suggestion of changing the preamble from "an information entry method..." to "an information entry method that is computer executable..." will overcome the rejection regarding claim 1.

Regarding dependent claims 2-12, claims 2-12 are rejected because they add nothing to render the claimed subject matter statutory.

Regarding independent claim 49, claim 49 is non-statutory as not being tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable, for example the limitation "an information entry program comprising the steps of..." is directed toward software *per se*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota et al. (hereinafter "Kubota"), U.S. Patent No. 5,956,021 issued September 1999, in view of O'Dell, U.S. Patent No. 6,801,659 issued October 2004, PCT Publication date July 2000.

Regarding independent claim 1, claim 1 cites: *An information entry method comprising the steps of: displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is recognizable;*

Kubota teaches a method of inputting information into a portable information processing device in which the keys may be divided into at least one group of related keys, displaying a representative key and the display may change the keys so that a row of other related keys are adjacent to the provisionally selected key (Col. 4, l. 14-22).

Claim 1 also cites: *making available a group selection mode allowing selection of the displayed group and a information selection mode allowing selection of information contained in the group*;

Kubota teaches that in the initial screen of the display device, only representative keys are displayed, allowing the display of Japanese, English, and numeral keys on the same screen so that the operator does not have to switch keyboards and allowing selections from the displayed groups. Kubota teaches that a user may select a key from a group of related keys by dragging the pen outside the representative key (Col. 4, l. 14-22), allowing selection of information contained in the group.

Claim 1 also cites: *displaying a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups*;

Kubota teaches that the keys are divided into groups of related keys (Col. 3, l. 57-65).

Claim 1 also cites: *allowing the group selected in the group selection mode to transit to the information selection mode; displaying an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information;*

While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transit from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, O'Dell teaches six kinds of screen displays including a start screen, showing the alphabet and other screen functions, i.e., beginning the group selection mode, that transits to a series of work screens, i.e. displaying information selected from the group in the form of letter groups, and word list screens that display lists of selectable words (Col. 4, l. 47-Col. 5, l. 55). O'Dell discloses the user work flow through the screens as the user selects from the displayed information grouped on the screens.

Claim 1 also cites: *setting the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defining an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information.* While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is definable information, O'Dell teaches that a user can define the information selected in the information selection mode and define an entry of the information. The user is taken to the next screen after varying preset numbers of strokes, or the user can set a default, or select an icon to accomplish the predetermined instruction (Col.. 11, l. 37-54).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the functionality of transit from the two selection modes and definable information and user set defaults taught by O'Dell, so that the user would have the benefit of text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) in an intuitive process (O'Dell Col. 2, l. 24).

Claim 2 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information.*

Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18).

Claim 3 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups.*

Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Further, Kubota teaches an embodiment where a kana row becomes shaded and subordinate keys appear in a downward row, displaying the selected group in an enlarged manner compared with the other groups (Col. 17, l. 26-37, Fig. 19).

Claim 4 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein an information selected in the information selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information.*

Kubota teaches that a provisionally selected key is expanded leftward and upward (Col. 3, l. 23-24).

Claim 5 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein the selection processing of a group, and the selection processing of an information from the selected group are proceeded according to a predetermined selection instruction.*

Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group according to a predetermined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code

designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing is completed according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Claim 6 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, wherein the grouping according to the predetermined rule is a grouping by a certain number of information or a grouping by categories.*

Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group according to a predetermined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing is completed according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Claim 7 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of changing a state of information defined in the group from a pre-defined state to a predetermined state.*

Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group and representative key, according to a predefined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the

selection processing changes state according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Claim 8 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of: converting a state of the definable information into a predetermined state; and defining the converted information according to the predetermined definitive instruction.*

Kubota teaches changing a predefined state to a predetermined state using interrupt processing and incrementing of key code information over elapsed time according to user action and user selection (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10), however, Kubota does not explicitly teach defining the converted information according to the predetermined definitive instruction. O'Dell teaches that a user can define the information selected in the information selection mode and define an entry of the information. The user is taken to the next screen after varying preset numbers of strokes, or the user can set a default, or select an icon to accomplish the predetermined instruction (Col.. 11, l. 37-54). Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota, using state conversion, with the functionality of definable information and user set defaults taught by O'Dell, so that the user would have the benefit of text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) in an intuitive process (O'Dell Col. 2, l. 24).

Claim 9 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 8, wherein the conversion processing into a predetermined state is a processing for adding a predetermined associate information to the definable information.*

While Kubota does not explicitly teach adding predetermined associate information to the definable information, O'Dell teaches that work screens for kana that contain complete characters, and all word list screens will contain an icon, which, when selected will offer candidate kanas that can be added to the selected character (Col. 12, l. 44-Col. 13, l. 6). Therefore, O'Dell discloses processing into a predetermined state and adding predetermined associate information to definable information. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota, using state conversion, with the functionality of user definable information and the additional kana characters taught by O'Dell, so that the user would have the benefit of text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) in an intuitive process (O'Dell Col. 2, l. 24).

Claim 10 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 9, wherein, for the case the information is given in a text, the addition processing of a predetermined associate information to the definable information is addition of voiced sound or p-sound mark to the text.*

Kubota teaches the ordered (i.e., predetermined) storage of characters where order of character codes is determined by their attributes, including voiced sound and p-sound katakana (Col. 7, l. 3-19, Col. 9, l. 1-7). Further, there is a text edit area for kana-kanji

conversion. Kubota teaches the cycled selection mode in which a user can select the special characters (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 33).

Claim 11 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 8, wherein the conversion processing into a predetermined state is a processing for changing the size of the definable information.*

Kubota teaches that display position and character sizes are determined by the values stored in the figure information record, and Kubota teaches that when the characters are cycled by elapsed time the user has the option of selecting a lowercase character (Col. 11, l. 39-Col. 12, l. 33).

Claim 12 cites: *The information entry method according to claim 11, wherein, for the case the information is given in a text, the processing of changing the size of the definable information is changing the text into the lowercase.*

While Kubota does not explicitly teach changing the text into lower case, O'Dell teaches a manual entry screen with a caps-no-caps toggle used either to complete a word or to create it from the beginning (Col. 5, l. 11-12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota, using state conversion, with the functionality of the caps-no-caps toggle disclosed by O'Dell, so that the user would have the benefit of text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) in an intuitive process (O'Dell Col. 2, l. 24).

Independent claim 13 cites: *An information entry device comprising: a storage means for storing a plurality of information which is grouped to a plurality of groups according to a predetermined rule; and*

Kubota teaches a character code information storage unit and display storage units where information is grouped and ordered according to predetermined rules (Col. 6, l. 41-Col. 7, l. 50).

Claim 13 also cites: *a control means for controlling display of a group on a monitor screen, and for controlling, based on a display position on the monitor screen and a predetermined instruction entry, at least an operation in a group selection mode allowing selection of the displayed group and an operation in an information selection mode allowing selection of an information contained in the group; wherein the control means displays each of a plurality of groups so that each information contained in each group is recognizable; displays a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups; allows transition of the group selected in the group selection mode into the information selection mode; displays an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information;*

While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transition from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, O'Dell teaches six kinds of screen displays including a start screen, showing the alphabet and other screen functions, i.e., beginning the group selection mode, that transitions to a series of work screens, i.e.

displaying information selected from the group in the form of letter groups, and word list screens that display lists of selectable words (Col. 4, l. 47-Col. 5, l. 55). O'Dell discloses the user work flow through the screens as the user selects from the displayed information grouped on the screens.

Claim 13 also cites: *sets the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defines an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information.* While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is set as definable information, O'Dell teaches that a user can define the information selected in the information selection mode and define an entry of the information. The user is taken to the next screen after varying preset numbers of strokes, or the user can set a default, or select an icon to accomplish the predetermined instruction (Col.. 11, l. 37-54).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the functionality of transitioning from the two selection modes and definable information and user set defaults taught by O'Dell, so that the user would have the benefit of text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) in an intuitive process (O'Dell Col. 2, l. 24).

Regarding claims 14-24, claims 14-24 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 2-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 25, claim 25 reflects the computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein an information entry program to be executed on a computer, used for implementing the information entry method as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding claims 26-36, claims 26-36 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 2-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 37, claim 37 reflects the program execution device for executing an information entry program, used for implementing the information entry method as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding claims 38-48, claims 38-48 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 2-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Independent claim 49 cites: *An information entry program comprising the steps of: displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is recognizable; displaying a group, which was selected in a group selection mode for allowing selection of the displayed group, so as to be distinguishable from other groups;*

Kubota teaches a method of inputting information into a portable information processing device in which the keys may be divided into at least one group of related keys, displaying a representative key and the display may change the keys so that a row of other related keys are adjacent to the provisionally selected key (Col. 4, l. 14-22).

Claim 49 also cites: *allowing the group selected in the group selection mode to transit to the information selection mode for allowing selection of information contained in such group; displaying an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information; setting the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defining an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information.*

While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transit from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, O'Dell teaches six kinds of screen displays including a start screen, showing the alphabet and other screen functions, i.e., beginning the group selection mode, that transits to a series of work screens, i.e. displaying information selected from the group in the form of letter groups, and word list screens that display lists of selectable words (Col. 4, l. 47-Col. 5, l. 55). O'Dell discloses the user work flow through the screens as the user selects from the displayed information grouped on the screens.

While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is definable information, O'Dell teaches that a user can define the information selected in the information selection mode and define an entry of the information. The user is taken to the next screen after varying preset numbers of strokes, or the user can set a default, or select an icon to accomplish the predetermined instruction (Col.. 11, l. 37-54).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the functionality of transit from the two selection modes and definable information and user set defaults taught by O'Dell, so that the user would have the benefit of text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) in an intuitive process (O'Dell Col. 2, l. 24).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Krueger et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,999,950 issued December 1999

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amelia Rutledge whose telephone number is (571) 272-7508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AR

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER